



State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48913
517/373-7888
1-888-937-4453
517/373-2983 (fax)
sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov

GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

Committees
Economic Development, Small
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Government Operations
Health Policy

The Jacobs Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 15, 2004

CONTACT: Matt Levin
(517) 373-7888

STATE REVENUES UP IN MARCH

Figures released by the Senate Fiscal Agency this week showed that March revenues from Michigan's major taxes, excluding the state education property tax, were up 9.4 percent from the same time in 2003.

Excluding the state education property tax, it was the second month in a row that state revenues were up. State education taxes were not figured into the mix since they are now to be collected in the summer.

The state's personal income, sales, use and single business taxes were all up in March—despite an increase in the unemployment rate.

Lottery revenues were up for the month by a whopping 19.9 percent, and for the year by 14.2 percent. The amount from the lottery paid to Michigan schools totals \$325 million so far this year, up by 8.6 percent.

Total revenues for the fiscal year are still down 6.1 percent from 2002-03, however.

MICHIGAN HEALTH PROBLEMS RISING WITH WEIGHT

According to a report released this week by Michigan Surgeon General Kimberlydawn Wisdom, the vast majority of Michigan adults are overweight or obese.

The 133-page Healthy Michigan 2010 status report points out that in areas related to healthy lifestyles, such as physical activity, healthy weight, and good nutrition, Michigan has room for improvement.

“This report confirms that we still have work to do, especially in the way our citizens view the importance of nutrition and healthy lifestyles,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Surgeon General’s report will pave the way for our future health initiatives in Michigan and ultimately create a Healthier Michigan.”

Granholm also said addressing important issues contained in the report that affect long-term health will ensure that Michigan’s workforce remains productive and the state remains an attractive place to start new business opportunities.

More than 50 percent of Michigan adults reported participating in physical activity less than the recommended 30 minutes per day. Twenty-five percent said that they participated in no leisure-time physical activity at all. The rate of obesity, especially in Michigan’s children, is of particular concern.

Michigan ranks the third worst among the states for rate of obesity and has been among the ten heaviest states for the past 14 years. Additionally, more than 62 percent of adults in Michigan are considered either

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overweight or obese, and a majority of high school students and adults indicated that they were trying to lose or maintain weight.

Some key chronic disease points from the report include:

-- Leading causes of death in Michigan have changed over time, moving from those of infectious diseases to deaths due to chronic diseases, such as cancer and heart disease, or diseases associated with aging.

-- Premature causes of death are greatly influenced by health behaviors, lack of social support, and/or chronic stress.

-- Among whites and African Americans of both genders, the leading causes of premature death were predominantly due to chronic illnesses. However, homicide is the second leading cause of premature death and the third leading cause of overall death in African American males.

-- Heart and lung problems were among the four leading causes of preventable hospitalizations among Michigan residents.

"The Healthy Michigan 2010 report is the first of many initiatives that we will use to guide our work as we strive to increase physical activity, reduce obesity, eliminate our dependency on tobacco, promote health, prevent disease, and achieve healthier outcomes for Michigan," said Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Michigan's Surgeon General.

In relationship to tobacco, the report found that:

-- The percentage of youth smoking among high-school students has declined in the past decade, especially from 1999 (34.1%) to 2001 (27.6%).

-- An estimated 24.1% of adults in Michigan smoked in 2002, a slight drop from 2001.

-- About 1,800 Michiganders die annually from exposure to secondhand smoke.

"Despite our collective progress toward combating tobacco use, there are still more than 16,000 tobacco-related deaths in Michigan each year," Wisdom said. "Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of morbidity and mortality in the United States, and the Governor's proposal to increase taxes on tobacco will go a long way toward ensuring that many citizens, including 94,000 children, will never become addicted to tobacco."

Later this month, the Surgeon General will issue the Prescription for a Healthier Michigan, which will offer concrete solutions to addressing issues contained in the report.

"Michigan has a proud history of innovation and leadership in health care," said Janet Olszewski, Director of the Michigan Department of Community Health. "We will use the results outlined in the Surgeon General's report to bring back a focus on prevention in health care to help improve Michigan's economy."

Olszewski said if the state can reduce the demand for health care, existing resources currently allocated to the treatment of chronic disease could be redirected to other critical areas. "A quality health care infrastructure – focused on healthier lifestyles – will reduce the growth in health care costs and foster a more competitive economy in Michigan. Healthy people create healthy and productive communities."

For more information, please see the report's executive summary at:

http://michigan.gov/documents/Executive_Summary_2_88116_7.pdf

The full report can be found at: http://michigan.gov/documents/Healthy_Michigan_2010_1_88117_7.pdf

DID YOU KNOW?

According to U.S. Census figures, Michigan's 1970 population was 8,881,826 – 4.37 percent of the total U.S. population. The most recent data shows Michigan's population at 10,050,446 – 3.49% of the total U.S. population.

Charlotte's Luern D. Dickinson was elected Lt. Governor in 1914, serving six terms before being elected to that office again in 1938. With the death of Gov. Frank Fitzgerald on March 16, 1939, Dickinson became Michigan's oldest governor and the only Lt. Governor to succeed an incumbent who died in office.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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